

Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Mental Health Advisory Committee Minutes

Date: November 21, 2006

Location: 4600 Valley Road Classroom 416

Chairperson: Vickie Frizzell Pratt

Interpreters: Lorelei Waldron & Beth Koubsky

Members, Technical Advisors and Staff Present

Vickie Frizzell Pratt, Melinda Brown, Vicki Campbell, Jill Bird and Peggy Williams

1. AGENDA

A. Gather and Welcome

The interpreters introduced themselves; members knew each other so introductions were not necessary.

B. Approval of August 15, 2006 Minutes

Changes were made to the update given by Ms. Brown and a motion was made to approve the minutes as corrected.

II. New Business

A. Program Update: Ms. Williams passed out a list of awareness programs/training that she has conducted for 2006 and discussed the regional training that she and Ms. Brown did for Health and Human Service CPS workers in various parts of the state. She stated that setting up training for the Omaha area was still pending. Discussion was held recommending that Ms. Williams be included in any orientation for new staff at HHSS and/or meet with individual case workers to discuss specific issues and concerns.

B. 2007 Meeting Schedule: Ms. Williams passed out upcoming meetings for 2007. The meeting schedule is as follows: February 20, 2007 in Omaha, May 15, 2007 in Lincoln, August 21, 2007 in Omaha and November 20, 2007 in Lincoln. All meetings are scheduled from 2:00 – 4:00 PM. It was suggested that if there is conflict with any of the dates to please contact Ms. Williams.

C. Nebraska Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition: Pam Perry, Executive Director of the Nebraska Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition joined the meeting and explained services provided by the Coalition. Ms. Perry feels that there needs to be a system in place for deaf and hard of hearing people such as advocates, interpreters, a statewide sexual assault prevention plan and a statewide domestic violence prevention plan. She stated that the former director was working with Ms. Williams and she will continue to work with her and keep her involved with this process. Various issues relating to domestic violence were discussed. Ms. Williams reported that she is hoping to have a domestic violence workshop in 2007 presented by Marilyn Smith from ADWAS in Seattle.

III. Old Business

A. Ms. Pratt & Ms. Johnson's Terms: Ms. Williams announced that Ms. Pratt and Ms. Johnson's terms were approved for a 2nd term. Ms. Pratt recommended that I email members to see if anyone would be interested in taking over as chairperson as she has served for a year.

B. NeRID Technical Advisor Representative: Ms. Williams reported on the recommendation made at the August meeting regarding inviting a representative from NeRID to serve on the advisory

committee as a technical advisor. An article was put in the NeRID Views newsletter asking for anyone interested in serving on the MHAC to contact Ms. Williams. Since no one from the interpreting community has volunteered to serve on the committee discussion was held suggesting other individuals to contact. Jill Bird recommended Lori Wegman and will bring her to the next Lincoln MHAC meeting. It was also recommended to have a faith based person serve on the committee.

C. RTC Update: Ms. Williams reported on the recent meeting at Boys Town and the proposed partnership with Alegent Health Care and the recent recommendation made by Pat Connell from Boys Town. As the chairperson for the Neb. Behavioral Health Coalition, Mr. Connell recommended that the Boys Town committee meet with the coalition to discuss our concerns, the lack of services in Nebraska and the need in establishing a Residential Treatment Facility for deaf and hard of hearing adolescents and youth. Ms. Bird suggested we research the number of deaf and hard of hearing children that have been sent out of state for treatment. It was suggested that Ms. Williams contact the Office of Juvenile Services to obtain this information.

D. NCDHH Mental Health Program Goals/Objectives: Ms. Williams passed out her goals/objectives for 2006-2009 and asked for feedback.

E. Agency Updates: Ms. Brown announced that BTNRH will have an Open House/Christmas Party on December 16th from 1:00 – 3:00 PM to unveil the mural. There will be a signing Santa!

F. Next Meeting: The next MHAC meeting will be held in Omaha on Tuesday, February 20, 2007.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM.